

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 1, 3A, 4-7 and 9-11 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1, 3A, 4-7 and 9-11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 20-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 32 is amended.

In section 1 on page 2, the Office Action requests that Fig. 1 be corrected. Fig. 1 is hereby corrected as recommended by the Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objections specified in section 1 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In section 2 on pages 2-3, the Office Action objects to the drawings for the specified informalities. Figs. 1, 4, 5, 9 and 11 are resubmitted.

Fig. 3A is resubmitted with line A-A shown therein. Fig. 4 is similarly revised. It is respectfully submitted that Figs. 1, 4, 5, 9 and 11 contain lines and indicia that are readable and include all required lines and indicia, including line A-A.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings in section 2 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, be withdrawn.

In section 3 on pages 3-4, the Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Figs. 4, 6 and 7 are corrected to show the viscous substance as requested by the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a).

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings specified in section 3 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, be withdrawn.

In section 4 on page 4, the Office Action objects to the specification for the informalities described therein. The specified informalities are addressed by the amendments to the specification included herewith. Specifically, a substitute specification is submitted herewith containing all information therein in a scannable and readable manner.

Additionally, Figs. 4, 6 and 7 are amended to show the subject matter recited in claim 29, and the specification is amended to use the reference character 39. It is respectfully

submitted that the drawings and specification comply with all applicable rules and matters of form.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the disclosure specified in section 4 on page 4 of the Office Action, be withdrawn.

In section 5 on page 4, the Office Action objects to claims 32-36 for the specified informality. Claim 32 is amended to relocate the word "upwards." It is respectfully submitted that claim 32 is grammatically correct and clear. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 32-36 specified in section 5 on page 4 of the Office Action, be withdrawn.

In section 7 on page 5, the Office Action rejects claims 32 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,499,650 to Cannon et al. (hereinafter "Cannon"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32, from which claim 36 depends, recites, "means to separate the two members on upwards movement of the machine and retaining module." It is respectfully submitted that Cannon does not disclose, teach or suggest this subject matter. There is no upwards movement of the machine and retaining modules disclosed in Cannon. The subject matter recited in claim 32 is a linear system that does not rely on rotation of the spindle of the machine, but instead relies on upwards movement of the machine while the two modules are located within the storage port.

Cannon has a different mode of operation to that of the subject matter recited in claim 32. In Cannon, a tool adaptor 11 (illustrated in Fig. 2) is provided for holding a tool and a tool holder assembly 30 (illustrated in Fig. 3) is engaged in the machine spindle and provides a mount for the tool adaptor 11.

The threaded end of the support member 31 of the tool holder assembly 30 has diametrically opposed slots 24 for receiving lugs 14 of the tool adaptor 11. The tool holder

assembly 30 is provided with a lock nut 19 which has an annular flange 23 that defines a pair of diametrically opposed slots 25 through which the tool adaptor lugs 14 are received. When the slots 25 of lock nut 19 are aligned with the slots 14 of the support member 31, the tool adaptor 11 can be inserted or withdrawn from the tool assembly 30.

The tool changing apparatus in Cannon works by inserting a pawl finger 116 to engage a slot 21 in the lock nut 12. See Fig. 7. The machine spindle is rotated to turn the support member 31 of the tool holder assembly 30 relative to the lock nut 19. The pawl finger 116 is biased into position by spring arrangement 121 and stop 111. The tool holder assembly 30 and tool adaptor 11 are separated by turning the spindle and thus the support member 31 of the tool holder assembly 30, while the lock nut 19 is held stationary by the pawl finger 116 inserted in the slot 21 of the lock nut 19.

Thus, Cannon works by undoing the lock nut of the tool holder assembly to thereby release the tool holder. This is achieved by holding the lock nut in the tool changing apparatus while using the rotation of the spindle to rotate the body of the tool holder assembly relative to the lock nut.

The Office Action identifies the member as item 65 and the second member as item 116. Cannon does not disclose a means to separate item 65 (arcuate collar 65 illustrated in Fig. 6, which receives the mating nose ring 15 of an associated tool adaptor 11) and the pawl finger 116. Although there may be some rotational movement of the pawl finger 116 if the lock nut 19 is on tightly, as described in col. 7, lines 20-24 and Fig. 7, this is blocked by stop 132. Furthermore, this movement cannot be described as separation of the two members and it does not result in separation the task module from the retaining module.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 32 and 36 are not anticipated by Cannon. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection in section 7 on page 5 of the Office Action, be withdrawn.

In section 8 on page 5, the Office Action indicates that claims 20-31, 37 and 38 are allowable. In section 9, the Office Action indicates that claims 33-35 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 33-35 are allowable without being rewritten in independent form because they depend from allowable subject matter for the reasons stated above in connection with the rejection of claim 32, from which claims 33-35 depend.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 20-38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MRW/mdw

Attachments:

Substitute Specification
Marked-up copy of Specification
Replacement Sheets

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